



Fall 2005 Programs

Ranger-guided programs will be offered September 3 - October 15, 2005.

EVERY DAY

Mingus Mill Demonstration

Located less than a mile north of the Oconaluftee Visitor Center on US 441 (Newfound Gap Road)

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Chat with a miller and feel the rumble of this historic turbine gristmill in action.

Accessibility: Two steps into mill

Autumn Highlights Patio Talks

Sugarlands Visitor Center Patio

10:00 a.m. 12:00 noon 2:00 p.m.

Join park staff as they discuss the wondrous world of the Smokies. Meet on the patio in front of Sugarlands Visitor Center.

Duration: 30 minutes

Level: Easy

Fall Foliage Walk

Sugarlands Visitor Center

11:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m.

Join park staff at Sugarlands Visitor Center for an easy stroll to nearby Cataract Falls.

Duration: 1 hour

Level: Easy

SUNDAYS

Down on the Farm

Mountain Farm Museum adjacent to the Oconaluftee Visitor Center

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. (except September 18) E

Walk down to the farm and see what pastime settlers may have been engaged in, such as quilting, woodworking, or cooking. Activities vary.

Duration: Ongoing for two hours

Sunday Morning in Sugarlands Valley

Sugarlands Visitor Center

10:30 a.m.

Join park staff for a walk back to the first Evans Chapel and reflect on how religion in the Smokies satisfied both spiritual and social needs. 1 mile.

Duration: 1 hour

Level: Easy

SUNDAY CONTINUED

Cades Cove Mill Area Walk

Meet at the Cades Cove Visitor Center half way around the Loop Road.

1:30 p.m.

A park ranger will walk you through several of the historic structures that were important in the community of Cades Cove.

Duration: 30 minutes

Junior Ranger Program

Meet at the Cades Cove Visitor Center half way around the Loop Road.

2:30 p.m.

Bring the family for a hands-on exploration of Cades Cove.

Duration: 45 minutes

Smoke Over Elkmont Evening Walk

Meet at the Elkmont Campground Bridge.

6:00 p.m. in September; 5:00 p.m. in October

Meet park volunteer Raymond Palmer for a short walk through what was once a logging boomtown.

Duration: 1+ hours

Level: Easy

Le Conte Lodge Programs

(RECOMMENDED FOR LE CONTE LODGE AND LE CONTE SHELTER GUESTS ONLY)

• Mt. Le Conte Junior Ranger & Salamandering Program

Le Conte Dining Hall

9:30 a.m.

Meet a park ranger for a half hour Junior Ranger and salamandering program. Meet outside the lodge dining hall.

• History of Mt. Le Conte

Le Conte Lodge Dining Hall

4:15 p.m.

The whole family is invited to this fun and informative program held atop Mt. Le Conte.

• Sunset at Clifftops on Mt. Le Conte

Clifftops overlook on Mt. Le Conte

Times vary. Check at Le Conte Lodge.

The view from Clifftops on Mt. Le Conte is always spectacular, and especially so at sunset in the fall. For those camping on Mt. Le Conte or residing at Le Conte Lodge, this program provides an opportunity to join a park ranger in experiencing the timeless passage of the sun beyond the western horizon. Flashlights recommended.

MONDAYS

Fighting Creek Nature Trail Hike

Sugarlands Visitor Center front patio

11:30 a.m.

Join park staff for a walk along Fighting Creek to a once-vibrant mountain community.

Duration: 1+ hours

Level: Easy

Unveiling the Secrets of the Smokies

Sugarlands Visitor Center Theater

10:00 a.m.

Park staff will discuss some of the many things to see and do while visiting the Smokies.

Accessible to persons in wheelchairs.

TUESDAYS

Old School Days

Metcalf Bottoms Picnic Area

Every hour from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Meet at Metcalf Bottoms Picnic Area, between Sugarlands Visitor Center and Cades Cove, for a step back in time to a 100-year-old school. Old-time school teaching by volunteer Robin Goddard will be presented on the hour throughout the day. Park volunteer Shirley Jones will be available to answer additional questions. Limited parking.

Level: Easy

Cades Cove Primitive Baptist Church

Meet at stop #4 on the Cades Cove Loop Road

11:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m.

Precious memories still linger and are alive at the Primitive Baptist Church.

Duration: 30 minutes

“Winter’s a’ Comin’!”

Sugarlands Visitor Center

1:00 p.m.

What did the people of the Great Smoky Mountains do to prepare for the approaching winter? Join in on this hike to the John Ownby cabin on Fighting Creek Nature Trail and explore the ways mountain folk of the 19th century stocked up for winter.

Duration: 2 hours

Level: Easy

Cades Cove Mill Area Walk

Meet at the Cades Cove Visitor Center half way around the Loop Road.

1:30 p.m.

A park ranger will walk you through several of the historic structures that were important in the community of Cades Cove.

Duration: 30 minutes

Junior Ranger Program

Meet at the Cades Cove Visitor Center half way around the Loop Road.

2:30 p.m.

Bring the family for a hands-on exploration of Cades Cove.

Duration: 45 minutes.

Cades Cove Evening Program

Meet in the campground amphitheater.

8:00 p.m.

A photographic journey through the park.

Duration: 1 hour

WEDNESDAYS

Little Cabin in the Woods

The Noah “Bud” Ogle Place located on Cherokee Orchard Road. From U.S. 441 in Gatlinburg, turn at traffic light #8.

10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m.

Meet park staff on the front porch of the Ogle cabin for a glimpse into early farm life in the Smokies. Talk followed by a short hike to the “tub” mill site. 1/2 mile.

Duration: 1 hour

Level: Easy

WEDNESDAYS CONTINUED

Unveiling the Secrets of the Smokies

Sugarlands Visitor Center Theater

10:00 a.m.

Park Rangers will discuss some of the things to see and do while visiting the Smokies.

Accessible to persons in wheelchairs.

Anikituwahgi: The Cherokee of the Appalachians

Oconaluftee Visitor Center, South Porch 2:00 p.m. (except September 14)

Learn about the inhabitants of the Qualla Boundary, home of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, as we discuss aspects of their past and present.

Duration: 45 minutes

Accessible to persons in wheelchairs.

THURSDAYS

Cardio Hike with a Ranger

Sugarlands Visitor Center Front Patio

10:00 a.m.

Join the Ranger in front of Sugarlands Visitor Center for an exercise hike on the nearby Gatlinburg Trail. Running shoes recommended. All fitness levels welcome. 4 miles roundtrip

Duration: 2+ hours

Level: Easy to moderate

Grotto Falls Walk

Roaring Fork Motor Nature Trail, Stop #5

10:00 a.m.

This volunteer-led walk will take you through an old-growth hemlock forest to the only waterfall in the park you can walk behind. Total hiking length is 3 miles.

Duration: 2 1/2 hours

Level: Moderate

Cades Cove Primitive Baptist Church

Meet at stop #4 on the Cades Cove Loop Road

11:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m.

Precious memories still linger and are alive at the Primitive Baptist Church.

Duration: 30 minutes

Cades Cove Hayride

Meet at the Cades Cove Riding Stables

6:00 p.m.

Enjoy an open-air hayride, view wildlife, and discover the diversity of life and the changing landscape within Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Duration: 2 hours

Fee: \$8 per person

Accessible with assistance to persons in wheelchairs.

FRIDAYS

Sugarlands Valley Nature Trail

Sugarlands Valley Trail, 1/2 mile south of Sugarlands Visitor Center on Newfound Gap Road

10:00 a.m.

Meet the Ranger at Sugarlands Visitor Center and caravan to the trailhead for this all-accessible activity.

Experience the old Sugarlands Valley and reflect on those who previously walked among these time-worn mountains. 3/4 mile.

Duration: 1 hour

Level: Easy

Accessible to persons in wheelchairs.

Unveiling the Secrets of the Smokies

Sugarlands Visitor Center Theater

10:00 a.m.

Park Rangers will discuss some of the things to see and do while visiting the Smokies.

Accessible to persons in wheelchairs.

Logs, Rails, and Culture

Meet at Jakes Creek trailhead above Elkmont Campground.

11:00 a.m.

A one mile hike featuring the Avent Cabin. Hear about Col. W. B. Townsend, "Daddy" Bryson, and Mayna Avent and their significance in historic Elkmont. Parking limited.

Duration: 1+ hours

Level: Easy to moderate

Cades Cove Mill Area Walk

Meet at the Cades Cove Visitor Center half way around the Loop Road.

1:30 p.m.

A park ranger will walk you through several of the historic structures that were important in the community of Cades Cove.

Duration: 30 minutes

Junior Ranger Program

Meet at the Cades Cove Visitor Center half way around the Loop Road.

2:30 p.m.

Bring the family for a hands-on exploration of Cades Cove.

Duration: 45 minutes

Family Night

Meet in the Smokemont Campground field between C and D loops.

6:30 p.m. in September (starts September 23)

6:00 p.m. in October

Grab the kids and meet a ranger for family night in the campground. Come spin the trivia wheel and test your knowledge of the Smokies with other visitors. Bring a blanket or chair to sit on.

Duration: 45 minutes

Accessible to persons in wheelchairs.

Cades Cove Night Hike

Meet at the Orientation shelter at the entrance to the Cades Cove Loop Road.

8:00 p.m. in September, 7:30 p.m. in October

Join a park ranger for an evening stroll and listen to the critters and spirits of Cades Cove. Wear good walking shoes, bring water and a flashlight. Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult.

Duration: 1-2 hours; Level: Easy

FRIDAYS CONTINUED

Le Conte Lodge Sunset Program

(RECOMMENDED FOR LE CONTE LODGE AND LE CONTE SHELTER GUESTS ONLY)

Sunset at Clifftops on Mt. Le Conte

Clifftops overlook on Mt. Le Conte

Times vary. Check at Le Conte Lodge.

The view from Clifftops on Mt. Le Conte is always spectacular, and especially so at sunset in the fall. For those camping on Mt. Le Conte or residing at Le Conte Lodge, this program provides an opportunity to join a park ranger in experiencing the timeless passage of the sun beyond the western horizon. Flashlights recommended.

SATURDAYS

Le Conte Lodge Programs

(RECOMMENDED FOR LE CONTE LODGE AND LE CONTE SHELTER GUESTS ONLY)

- **Mt. Le Conte Junior Ranger & Salamandering Program**

Le Conte Dining Hall

9:30 a.m.

Meet a park ranger for a half hour Junior Ranger and salamandering program. Meet outside the lodge dining hall.

- **History of Mt. Le Conte Junior Ranger Program**

Le Conte Lodge Dining Hall

4:15 p.m.

The whole family is invited to this fun and informative program held in the dining hall atop Mt. Le Conte.

- **Sunset at Clifftops on Mt. Le Conte**

Clifftops overlook on Mt. Le Conte

Times vary. Check at Le Conte Lodge.

The view from Clifftops on Mt. Le Conte is always spectacular, and especially so at sunset in the fall. For those camping on Mt. Le Conte or residing at Le Conte Lodge, this program provides an opportunity to join a park ranger in experiencing the timeless passage of the sun beyond the western horizon. Flashlights recommended.

Autumn Highlights Patio Talks

Sugarlands Visitor Center Patio

10:00 a.m. 12:00 noon 2:00 p.m.

Join park staff as they discuss the wondrous world of the Smokies. Meet on the patio in front of Sugarlands Visitor Center.

Duration: 30 minutes

Level: Easy

Appalachian Trail Walk

Newfound Gap Overlook

11:00 a.m.

Join in on this short walk on the Appalachian Trail at Newfound Gap. The "A.T." runs from Georgia to Maine, and 71 miles of it pass through Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Come experience a part of this fascinating trail with a park ranger or volunteer as your guide.

Duration: 2 hours

Level: Easy

Cades Cove Mill Area Walk

Meet at the Cades Cove Visitor Center half way around the Loop Road.

1:30 p.m.

A park ranger will walk you through several of the historic structures that were important in the community of Cades Cove.

Duration: 30 minutes

SATURDAY CONTINUED

Ranger Tells All!

Oconaluftee Visitor Center, South Porch

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. (except September 17)

Want to know where the fall colors are? How about what to take on a hike? Are you tired of traffic and want to find a quiet place to enjoy the park? Stop by and get all the answers from the ranger!

Duration: Ongoing, two hours

Accessible to persons in wheelchairs.

Junior Ranger Program

Meet at the Cades Cove Visitor Center half way around the Loop Road.

2:30 p.m.

Bring the family for a hands-on exploration of Cades Cove.

Duration: 45 minutes

Cades Cove Hayride

Meet at the Cades Cove Riding Stables.

6:00 p.m. (no hayride September 10)

Enjoy an open-air hayride, view wildlife, and discover the diversity of life and the changing landscape within Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Duration: 2 hours

Fee: \$8 per person

Accessible with assistance to persons in wheelchairs.

Cades Cove Evening Program

Meet in the campground amphitheater. 8:00 p.m.

A photographic journey through the park.

Duration: 1 hour

Accessible to persons in wheelchairs.

Under the Stars of Elkmont

Elkmont Campground Amphitheater

9:00 p.m. in August; 8:00 p.m. in September; 7:30 p.m. in October

Come by and enjoy an evening campfire slide show that will highlight the special places and people of the park.

Topics vary.

Duration: 1 hour

Accessible to persons in wheelchairs.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Cades Cove Blacksmith Demonstrations

Located at the blacksmith building near the Cades Cove Visitor Center half way around the Loop.

September 17-18, October 1-2, November 5-6

Learn the art of blacksmithing and why it was important in the Cades Cove community.

Mountain Life Festival

Mountain Farm Museum

September 17 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Join park staff and volunteers as we celebrate our Appalachian Mountain Heritage. The Mountain Farm Museum will be alive with history as demonstrators provide visitors with a glimpse into the past as they make soap, apple cider, and sorghum molasses. Other demonstrations will include blacksmithing, hearth cooking, music and clogging, and much more.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS CONTINUED

Cades Cove Full Moon Hike

Meet at the orientation shelter at beginning of the Cades Cove Loop Road.

September 19 8:00 p.m.

Duration: 2.5 hours

Level: Easy, 2 miles

Saturday Cultural Demonstrations at Sugarlands Visitor Center

Sugarlands Visitor Center Patio

To live in the Smoky Mountains in the past, a person had to have a variety of practical skills such as blacksmithing, quilting, apple butter making, canning, and others. These essential mountain skills will be showcased starting Saturday, September 24, and will run through each Saturday in October. Come join in and learn about the practical ways of making a living in the mountains.

Accessible to persons in wheelchairs.

- **September 24 Blacksmithing**

11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

- **October 1 Quilting**

11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

- **October 8 Mountain Tools**

11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

- **October 22 "South Carolina Independent Company of Foot" muster, roll call, drill, and general camp life on the Appalachian frontier in the mid-1700s.**

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Sorghum Making Demonstration

Cades Cove Cable Mill area

September 30-October 2

Stop by during the day to see how sorghum cane is deliciously transformed into molasses.

Deep Creek History Hike

Meet at the Deep Creek parking area

October 1 10:00 a.m.

Join a ranger to discover the history and families of the Deep Creek area. Wear comfortable hiking shoes. Bring a bag lunch and water.

Duration: 4 hours

Difficulty: Moderate, 4.4 miles

Cataloochee Hike

Meet at parking area on left just after entering Cataloochee Valley

October 8 10:00 a.m.

Join a Ranger for a hike into Little Cataloochee Valley to discover the rich history of the area. Stops on the hike will include the Hannah Cabin, Little Cataloochee Baptist Church and cemetery, and the restored Dan and Rachel Cook Cabin on Coggins Branch.

Duration: 4-5 hours

Difficulty: Easy to moderate, 5 miles round-trip

Stargazing in Cades Cove

Meet at the Orientation Shelter at the beginning of the Cades Cove Loop Road.

October 8 8:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Join a park ranger and the Smoky Mountain Astronomical Society as we observe the night skies and tour the constellations with the use of telescopes.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS CONTINUED

Evening at the Mountain Farm Museum

Mountain Farm Museum adjacent to Oconaluftee Visitor Center

October 13 5:30 p.m.

Join park staff and volunteers for an evening of demonstrations, music, and talks on the Mountain Farm.

Duration: 2.5 hours

Accessible with assistance to persons in wheelchairs.

Andrews Bald Hike

Meet at Clingmans Dome parking area.

October 16 11:00 a.m.

Join a Ranger on a hike to the most accessible of the Smokies' grassy balds to learn more about this unique high elevation feature.

Duration: 2.5 hours

Level: Moderate, 3 miles

Cades Cove Harvest Hayrides

October 26, 27, 28, 29

7:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m. 8:30 p.m.

Join the fun for an old fashioned hayride through Cades Cove on a crisp fall evening. This event features costumed interpretation of the history of Cades Cove. Hay wagons pulled by trucks leave each evening from the Cades Cove Riding Stables. Reservations are required for this special event. Call (865) 448-6286

Duration: 2 hours

Cost: \$8

